



A Publication of the
**DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION AND LICENSING
FOR WISCONSIN-REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNERS**

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Status of Regulation

The regulation of registered interior designers continues to progress smoothly. There have not been any legislative proposals directly affecting registered interior designers and the Department has not received any complaints against any registered interior designers.

Advisory Committee

You will find some new names on the list of committee members. We are grateful to Gregory Bednar, Hollie Schick and Barbara Schuler for agreeing to serve on the Interior Designers Advisory Committee.

**INTERIOR DESIGNERS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Committee Members:

Bill Bachman, Menomonee Falls
Gregory M. Bednar, Milwaukee (Public Member)
Brenda Brady, Middleton
Mary M. Moser, Phillips
Hollie R. Schick, Oconomowoc
Barbara Schuler, Madison (Public Member)
John Steinhafel, New Berlin
Inge Winters, Cedarburg

Administrative Staff:

Cletus J. Hansen, Division Administrator

Executive Staff:

Marlene A. Cummings, Secretary
William Conway, Deputy Secretary
Myra Shelton, Executive Assistant
We anticipate having an advisory committee meeting within the next few months, so that all

of the committee members and staff can meet each other and discuss regulatory issues relating to the regulation of registered interior designers. If anyone has any recommendations for issues that the Committee ought to discuss, please send a letter describing the issues and why they should be discussed.

Continuing Education

The next deadline for mandatory continuing education requirements is July 31, 2000. In order to renew in a timely manner for the 2000-2002 biennium, most registered interior designers must complete 9 hours of an approved educational program by the deadline stated above. They may complete the education after the renewal date; however, their registration will not be renewed until they have completed the education and they will be required to pay a \$25 late filing fee, in addition to the regular renewal fee. This continuing education requirement does not apply to a person who is initially registered less than 6 months before the first renewal date of his or her registration.

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Registration Fees

The Biennial Budget Bill – 1999 Wisconsin Act 9 was effective on October 29, 1999. It

contained the following changes in registration fees:

Initial registration fee – ~~\$41~~ \$44

Renewal registration fee – ~~\$41~~ \$47

Exam Changes Announced by NCIDQ

The Department recently received the following news release from the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ), relating to changes to its qualification examination, effective in the fall of 2000.

“As part of its ongoing effort to ensure the relevance, validity, and psychometric (test statistics) quality of the examination, NCIDQ conducted the *Analysis of the Interior Design Profession*, 1998. Based on the finding of the *Analysis*, NCIDQ began to work with Columbia Assessment Services, Inc. (CA), recognized testing experts, to revise the NCIDQ examination program with the goal of providing the most up-to-date and appropriate examination possible.

The **new exam format** will be administered for the first time on **October 6-7, 2000**. Currently, the NCIDQ exam consists of 6 sections: 3 multiple choice sections and 3 practicum (design) sections. The new exam format will be composed of 3 sections: 2 multiple choice sections (which will replace the current 3 multiple choice sections) and one practicum (design) section (which will replace the current 3 practicum sections). A brief description of the new exam sections is:

Section I: *Principles and Practices of Interior Design*

(Multiple choice section – 150 questions)

Section I addresses the domains of project organization, programming, schematics, and design development.

Section II: *Contract Development and Administration*

(Multiple choice section – 125 questions)

Section II addresses the domains of contract documents and contract administration.

Many questions on both Section I and II incorporate drawings, pictures, symbols, and textual formats typical in the interior design profession, requiring candidates to recall, apply, and analyze information.

Section III: *Schematics and Design Development*

(Practicum section)

Section III requires candidates to produce a design solution. Candidates will receive a program based on a multi-functional facility. All candidates for a given test date will receive the same problem. All design solutions must address the principles of universal design.

Using the *Analysis of the Interior Design Profession*, NCIDQ has determined that 6 performance domains characterize the work of interior design:

- (I) Project Organization
- (II) Programming
- (III) Schematics
- (IV) Design Development
- (V) Contract Documents
- (VI) Contract Administration

The weighting structure of the new examination is derived from each domain's relative importance, criticality, and frequency. The performance domains provided the logical and analytical basis for each part of the revised NCIDQ examination program.

The NCIDQ Board of Directors has also approved the pricing of the new exam. The decision was made, based on the Board's desire to accommodate exam candidates during this transition, to hold the price for the fall, 2000 administration of the new exam at the same price as that for the previous exam format. The cost for candidates who take all 3 exam sections will be \$495. The multiple-choice sections are priced at \$175 for Section I and \$125 for Section II. Section III (practicum section) will

be \$295. The Board of Directors has also approved a one-time 10% discount for candidates who register to take the new fall, 2000 exam. The cost for future administrations of the examination is always subject to change and will be announced later in the year – likely at an increased cost.

For the past 25 years, NCIDQ has administered the exam through a network of volunteer exam proctors who have contributed to the success of the exam program. To adhere to the most current professional testing standards, NCIDQ realized the need to contract these services to a professional testing company. **Beginning in April, 2000, NCIDQ will be working with CAS on a new method for administering the NCIDQ examination.** CAS will be responsible for all aspects of the exam administration, including processing exam registration, securing appropriate exam sites, issuing letters of admission, training exam proctors, and the shipping and receipt of all exam materials. NCIDQ, working with psychometric leadership from CAS, will continue to be responsible for the development of the examination by utilizing interior design practitioners and educators to develop the exam content.

NCIDQ worked with CAS to determine the location of exam centers for the April 7-8, 2000 exam. Centers with a very small number of candidates were combined with larger centers (where possible) to provide a cost effective solution. This change in administration places NCIDQ along side other professional testing organizations and is a necessary step in the evolution of the NCIDQ exam program.

The new exam is scheduled to be administered for the first time October 6-7, 2000. NCIDQ has prepared a transition plan to provide candidates who are in the process of completing the current exam format a means to transition into the new exam format where possible. This information is available by

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Interior Designers
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

contacting the NCIDQ office at 202-721-0220 and will be available on the NCIDQ website (www.ncidq.org) after February 15. This information will also be communicated to eligible candidates and the interior design community in February, 2000. Because the new exam format is different from the current format (number of sections, etc.) candidates who are in the process, as announced in August, 1999, are encouraged to complete the remaining sections. The transition plan provides a means for current candidates to receive credit for passing sections of the current multiple choice sections in most – but not all – cases. (This credit will be valid until after the fall, 2002 examination.) However, because the practicum sections have been combined into one section (the current exam format has 3 sections), any candidate who has credit for passing 2 or fewer sections of the current practicum exam sections will have to complete the current format or be required to take the new practicum section of the new exam format. As such, the 3 practicum sections of the current exam format will be administered in fall, 2000 only to candidates who have credit for one or more of the current practicum sections. The extra administration of the 3 current practicum sections in fall, 2000 will give these candidates an additional opportunity to complete the current exam.

Additional information on the new exam program, including length of time for each exam section will be forthcoming. In addition, a new study guide is being developed for release in June of this year. The latest information on the new exam will be posted on the NCIDQ website (www.ncidq.org) beginning February 15.”

NCIDQ has also announced that, until further notice, the Building and Barrier Free Codes examination will continue to be offered for those jurisdictions that require it by law.

REGULATORY DIGEST

Bulk Rate U.S. Postage Paid Madison, WI Permit No. 1369

Renewal of Registration

Renewal notices will be mailed to all registered interior designers around the middle of June 2000. Registrants should read the instructions concerning the renewal requirements, the fees and continuing education.

Credential Verification Services

The Department of Regulation and Licensing has added a feature on the department's web site (<http://www.drl.state.wi.us>) which will allow employers and members of the public to verify the status of professional credentials held by nearly 280,000 individuals.

Once the department's web site is accessed, users may click on "Credential Holder Query" and they will gain access to the department's credential data base where they can verify whether an individual holds a current license in any of the professions regulated by the department.

"Giving employers and consumers the ability to directly access this information on the Internet makes it easier for the public to verify whether a person is entitled to practice a profession in Wisconsin," Secretary Marlene Cummings said. "It will also be an effective deterrent to efforts by any individuals to successfully misrepresent their credential status since anyone with a computer and Internet access can quickly verify whether the credential is actually held by that individual," Cummings added.

Telephone Directory

The Division of Business Licensure & Regulation has a menu telephone system which is designed to more efficiently direct the caller to the appropriate section. The telephone number for staff is:

(608) 266-5511

After dialing this number you are asked to press various extensions. For the following requests, please press numbers as noted:

Application Forms	Press 11
Complaint Against Licensees	Press 12
Verification of Licensure	Press 442
Application Processing and Requirements	Press 43

Visit the Department's Web Site

<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/drl/>
Send comments to dorl@drl.state.wi.us

Digests on the Web

Check the above Web address for past issues of the Digest.

Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Rules Relating to the Regulation of Interior Designers can be ordered from the Department. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest edition is dated November, 1997.